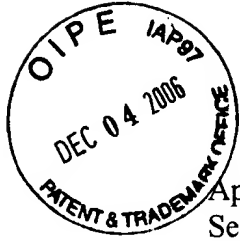


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Steven M. Knowles Art Unit: 3679
Serial No.: 09/982,928 Examiner: David Bochna
Filed: October 22, 2001
Title: FLEXIBLE JOINT ASSEMBLY, SERVICE, AND SYSTEM USING A
FLEXIBLE JOINT ASSEMBLY

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RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief, attached is a paper providing a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v).

Should any fees be required by the present response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account **19-4293**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12-4-06

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SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant has discovered flexible joint assemblies for conducting a fluid that includes a joint assembly inlet, a joint assembly outlet, and a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet. The fluid flow path includes a first pivot joint, a second pivot joint, wherein each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint independently includes a ball and socket joint. Each ball and socket joint includes a socket, a ball received in the socket, a seal between the ball and the socket and a unitary central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints. See page 2, lines 6-18, page 3, lines 14-16 and page 4, line 6 to page 5, line 6 of the specification. Applicant has also discovered flexible joint assemblies wherein each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint includes an inner member, a receiving member, a sealing member, a supporting member and a retaining ring. See page 2, lines 19-29 and page 4, line 6 to page 5, line 6 of the specification.